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Friends of Michigan History, Inc.

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Michigan Historical Museum

Lansing, Michigan

August 11, 2008

Call to Order

President Bus Spaniola called the of the Board of Directors (Board) meeting of the Friends of Michigan History, Inc. (Friends) to order at 10:10 AM.

Board Members Present: Keith Harrison, Larry Griffin, Charles Seeley, Ralph Sims, Bus Spaniola, Paul Tarr, Morris Thomas, Tom Truscott, and Geneva Kebler Wiskemann.

Board Members Absent: David Brickey, Adriana Greci Green, Richard Johnson, Louise Stilwill, and Bill Wellman.

Board Members Excused: Adriana Greci Green, Richard Johnson, Louise Stilwill, and Bill Wellman.

Michigan Historical Museum (Museum) Staff Present: Chris Dancisak.

Others Present: State Archivist Mark Harvey.

A moment of silence was held in memory of Board Member Tom Shauver who passed away.

Approval of Agenda

A motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda as presented; motion passed.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

A motion was made and seconded to approve as transmitted the minutes from the July 2008 Board meeting; motion passed.

A motion was made and seconded to set up a separate benevolence fund account in the Friends' Treasury that would be a totally separate account containing monies solely for the purpose of expenditures associated with Friends' members (e.g., flowers associated with a Friends member's funeral). This separate account would be funded solely by donations and any and all donations to this account would not be tax deductible; motion passed.

Paul Tarr donated \$25.00 to this special account.

President Report

President Spaniola stated that his activities as President would be reported under various agenda items further into the meeting.



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Treasurer Report

The Treasurer report for July was presented.

Balance	7-01-08	11,747.26
Deposit	7-14-08	<u>+ 1,274.15</u>
Total		13,021.41
Cashed Checks		
#1368 Markkanen	150.00	
#1369 Kearns	150.00	
#1372 Harrison	254.23	
#1373 Old Country	651.00	
#1374 Fayette	93.20	
#1376 Haas	<u>1,200.00</u>	
	2,498.43	<u>- 2,495.43</u>
		10,522.98
Uncashed Checks		
#1370 Brown	150.00	
#1375 Walker Tavern	<u>66.40</u>	
	216.40	<u>- 216.40</u>
AVAILABLE FUNDS	7-31-08	10,306.58

A motion was made and seconded to approve the Treasurer's report as presented; motion passed.

Presentation of Bills

No bills were presented for payment.

Museum Report New

Chris Dancisak reported that the portion that is taking the most time for the Roadside Attraction Exhibit is the gathering of artifacts. The initial exhibits will be based on in-house collections. The later exhibits items will be based on the collection of outside artifacts.

He then presented the following request for funds by the Museum that were anticipated between now and June 2009:

Michigan's Roadside Attractions Special Exhibit
(Previously APPROVED by Board Action)

Up to \$5,000.00

Additional New Requests:

HarvestFest (October 4 - NEW program)

Presenters, Supplies, Promotion 500.00

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<i>Archaeology Day (October 11)</i>		
Presenters, Supplies, Promotion	1,000.00	
<i>Haunted History (October 26)</i>		
Presenters, Supplies, Promotion	500.00	
<i>Docent Symposium (November 1)</i>		
Presenters, Supplies, Promotion	1,000.00	
<i>WinterFest 2008 (December 6)</i>		
Presenters, Supplies, Promotion	1,000.00	
<i>Statehood Day (January 24, 2009)</i>		
Presenters, Supplies, Promotion	1,000.00	
<i>Community Outreach Scholarships</i>		
(Support for students/individuals participating in museum sponsored educational programs)	<u>500.00</u>	
Total New Requests	\$5,500.00	<u>\$5,500.00</u>

Total Previously Approved and New Requests

Up to **\$10,500.00**

It was moved and seconded to set aside up to \$5,500 additional funds to support the Museum's request for funds for HarvestFest (October 4, 2008) \$500.00, Archaeology Day (October 11, 2008) \$1,000.00, Haunted History (October 26, 2008) \$500.00, Docent Symposium (November 1, 2008) \$1,000.00, WinterFest 2008 (December 6, 2008) \$1,000.00, Statehood Day (January 24, 2009) \$1,000.00, and Community Outreach Scholarships \$500.00; motion passed.

It was moved and seconded to have the Executive Committee develop a Budget taking into account the need to support Collette Travel, Conservation of Historical Photographs (\$2,500), plaque for the Veterans Day speaker, and other items; motion passed. .

Chris also passed out a flier that outlined the program schedule for the Museum until the spring of 2009.

Committee Reports

A. *2008 Veterans Day Program Committee (Paul Tarr and Larry Griffin – Co chairs):* Paul Tarr is still working on obtaining a speaker. He will work Geneva Kebler Wiskemann, regarding the person she had mentioned at the May meeting. Larry Griffin was appointed as co-chair of this committee.

A motion was made and seconded to cover up to \$400.00 in expenses for the Veteran Day Speaker (Tom Wiener); motion passed.

B. *Membership Committee (Keith Harrison – Chair).* Keith Harrison reported that due to circumstance beyond our control, we did not get the display up for the African-American Parade and Picnic on August 2, 2008. Keith indicated that the Friends are in need of a table that can be taken to events that do not provide a table for our display. Chris Dancisak indicated that he would see about the possibility of the purchase of one for use by the Friends. It was suggested

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that we get our Friends sponsored programs into the Historical Society of Michigan's listings. Larry Griffin indicated that he would follow up with that. It was suggested that possibly the Friends and the Docents consider the possibility of coming with a joint brochure for handout at the Museum. Keith indicated that the next event where the Friends display would be is the Jackson Cascades Civil War Muster, August 23-24, 2008. Keith indicated that he would get out a sign-up sheet for Board members to staff the display for the two days. A listing of the events (including the upcoming Jackson event) where the Friends will have its display at is presented below.

**August 23, 24, 2008 - Civil War Muster
Jackson, Michigan (Jackson Cascades Park)**

Saturday 9 AM – 4 PM

Sunday 10 AM – 4 PM

24th Annual Civil War Muster

Set up same as last year - in the Band Shell.

All Day Event (both days)

No cost to the Friends to set up display

Contact: Friends' Board Member Keith Harrison <pcinc@prodigy.net>

Board Display staffing: Keith Harrison (set up and take down only both days)

September 6, 2008 - Founder's Day and Sesquicentennial of Corunna

Corunna Michigan 10 - 4

Saturday – Times are unknown at this time

All Day Event (both days)

No cost to the Friends to set up display

Contact: Friends' Board Member Bus Spaniola <busman4@verizon.net>

Board Display staffing: Bus Spaniola

October 4, 2008 - Jeff Haas Trio Musical Fund Raising Program.

State Library/Museum, Lansing

More information to follow.

Board Display staffing:

October 19, 2008 - Barnes and Nobel Book Signing Fund Raiser

One of the two Barnes and Nobel Book Stores in Lansing

Possibly with Lauri Perkins, who wrote book on the *Wreak on the Wabash*.

More information to follow.

Board Display staffing:

November 7, 8, 2008 - Oral History for Michigan: A Conference

Rogers City, Michigan (Grambau Education Center 251 West Huron Avenue)

Saturday – Times are unknown at this time

Sunday – Times are unknown at this time

All Day Event (both days)

No cost to the Friends to set up display

Contact: Friends' Board Member Geneva Kebler Wiskemann

<gwiskemann@arq.net>

Board Display staffing: Geneva Kebler Wiskemann, Bill Wellman

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C. *Board Nominating Committee (Charles Seeley)*. Paul Tarr indicated that he had a possible candidate to fill the vacancy left as the result of the death of Tom Shauver. It was suggested that Paul provide this information to Charles Seeley.

D. *Magazine/Military Committee (Paul Tarr – Chair)*. Paul Tarr indicated that he is working on getting more magazines to be sent to Michigan troops. Board member Larry Griffin indicated that he would assist Paul.

E. *Grants Committee (Adriana Greci Green - Chair)*. No report.

F. *Newsletter Committee (Paul Tarr and Tom Truscott Co-chairs)*. President Spaniola requested that the next newsletter was still in need of articles and asked Board members to submit material to Jennifer Sochor. Tom Truscott was appointed as the new co-chair of this committee.

G. *Fund Raising Committee (Bus Spaniola - Chair)*.

Jeff Haas Trio - Bus Spaniola indicated that the committee was still working out the detail for the upcoming Jeff Haas Trio program on October 4, 2008. He indicated that Lansing Community College (LCC) was still working on getting sponsors. There are three levels of sponsorship: Gold (\$1000), Silver (\$750), and Bronze (\$500). Each level provides tickets for the event and then different radio and other promotional material. A draft of the program flyer has been prepared but there still was the need to get the Friends logo onto the flyer. Chris Dancisak indicated that he could help if he could get the material that has been put together in an electronic format. The ticket for the event will be printed by LCC. Chair Spaniola also indicated that a problem had occurred since Marshall Music would not provide the piano (we need a baby grand piano donated, moved, and tuned).

Colette Travel - Bus Spaniola stated that he another meeting scheduled to discuss the choice of trips to merchandise. We will be given two or three options. It was suggested that one option be an itinerary specific to Michigan history. It also was indicated that we would have the choice of taking the calls and orders for trips if we wanted. It was the general consensus that this be done by a local travel agency rather than by the Board.

Old Business

A. *Events*. President Spaniola stated that he still is in discussions with author Lauri Perkins, who wrote book on the *Wreck on the Wabash*, about putting on a book signing program. The tentative date is October 19, 2008. He also reminded the Board of the dates for the Book Signing event at Barnes and Noble (November 1 – 2, 2008).

B. *License Plates*. Currently, the bill to establish the license plate is still pending.

C. *IRS Group Exemption Application Status*. There has been no notification regarding the Friends' letter application to the Internal Revenue Service for a Group Exemption Number.

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D. Conservation of Historical Photographs. State Archivist Mark Harvey stated that the Archives had come up with temporary funding in order to get the new freezers. He indicated that \$150,000 more was needed still to finalize the total project. He said that other funding sources were still being looked into, including the Accident Fund and LCC. Finally, he indicated that they hoped to launch of their website, which will display some of the photographs

E. Telephonic Board Attendance. Nothing has changed since the last meeting. The Board's current meeting location on the 1st floor of the Museum does not have telephonic capability.

New Business

There was a brief discussion on how the Friends could assist the Michigan Historical Commission with the Civil War Sesquicentennial. It was agree that the Friends should write a letter to the Commission.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:20 PM.

Respectively submitted,

Keith G. Harrison

Keith G. Harrison, Secretary
Board of Directors
Friends of Michigan History, Inc.

The next Regular Board meeting will be Monday, September 8, 2008, in Lansing.